

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABIDJA 03987 211522Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 AID-05 OMB-01 TRSE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3057

INFO AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IV, FR

SUBJECT: IVORY COAST AND DAKAR FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT

REF: STATE 083778

BEGIN SUMMARY: IVORY COAST ATTITUDE ON DAKAR FRANCOPHONE
SUMMIT STRESSES THE POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF THE MEETING
IN THE WAKE OF SHABA INVASION WHICH IS SEEN AS FURTHER
EVIDENCE OF THE SOVIET-CUBAN THRUST IN AFRICA. IVORY
COAST BELIEVES MEASURES MUST BE TAKEN TO PREVENT FURTHER
ANGOLAS, FURTHER SHABAS. THE ROLE OF FRANCE IS EMPHASIZED AS
A FRIEND ON WHOM ONE CAN COUNT AND "THE ONLY WESTERN POWER
TO HAVE GIVEN EFFECTIVE AID TO ZAIRE." HOWEVER, IN THE FINAL
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ANALYSIS THE DEFENSE OF AFRICA AGAINST OUTSIDE SUBVERSION
FALLS FOREMOST TO THE AFRICANS THEMSELVES. END
SUMMARY.

1. ENTIRE FRONT PAGE OF APRIL 20 EDITION OF
GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED DAILY NEWSPAPER FRATERNITE
MATIN DEVOTED TO FRANCOPHONE SUMMIT IN DAKAR.

ARTICLE NOTES THAT ALTHOUGH ECONOMIC AND MONETARY QUESTIONS DOMINATE THE AGENDA, POLITICAL QUESTIONS WILL CERTAINLY BE DEALT WITH AT LENGTH. SOVIET-CUBAN PENETRATION OF AFRICA IS SAID TO BE MORE AND MORE DISTURBING AND "MEASURES MUST BE TAKEN" TO ASSURE THERE ARE NO MORE ANGOLAS, NO MORE SHABAS. PAPER COMMENTS "AFRICA FOR THE AFRICANS" CERTAINLY, BUT ONE MUST NONETHELESS CONFRONT THE THREAT OF ENVELOPMENT BY "PROGRESSIVE" FORCES ON THE GROUND WITH THEIR CUBAN "INSTRUCTORS," A THREAT SPECTACULARLY CONFIRMED BY THE RECENT VISITS OF CASTRO AND PODGORNÝ.

2. ARTICLE QUOTES GISCARD THAT AFRICANS "WILL NOT BE ABANDONED" AND ACTION OF FRANCE IN CONVOYING MOROCCAN TROOPS AS EVIDENCE THAT FRANCO-AFRICAN COOPERATION IS MORE THAN JUST WORDS. FRANCE IS "A FRIEND ON WHOM ONE CAN COUNT" AND "THE ONLY WESTERN POWER TO HAVE GIVEN EFFECTIVE AID TO ZAIRE."

3. ARTICLE CLOSES BY NOTING THAT IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS THE DEFENSE OF AFRICA AGAINST OUTSIDE SUBVERSION FALLS TO AFRICANS THEMSELVES WHO MUST FIND WAYS TO ORGANIZE THEIR DEFENSE IN AN EFFECTIVE MANNER.

4. COMMENT: ARTICLES MAKE CLEAR THAT FOR IVORY COAST THE IMPORTANT ORDER OF BUSINESS AT DAKAR IS FINDING A WAY TO COUNTER THE SOVIET-CUBAN THRUST IN AFRICA AS REPRESENTED MOST RECENTLY IN ZAIRE. THE ROLE OF FRANCE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IN THIS REGARD WILL REMAIN PARAMOUNT FOR IVORY COAST, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE IVORIANS' PERCEPTION THAT THE OTHER WESTERN POWERS, AND THE U.S. IN PARTICULAR, WERE OVERLY TIMID IN COMING TO THE AID OF THEIR OLD ALLY, MOBUTU. AT THE SAME TIME, THE COMMENT THAT AFRICANS MUST FIND WAYS TO ORGANIZE THEIR OWN DEFENSE AGAINST SUBVERSION REFLECTS A VIEW THAT HOUPOUET HAS VOICED OF LATE, MOST RECENTLY DURING HIS LIBERIAN TRIP, THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR MODERATE AFRICAN LEADERS TO COME TOGETHER AND PRESENT A UNITED FRONT TO PREVENT FURTHER ADVANCES BY THE "PROGRESSIVE" AFRICAN STATES BACKED BY THEIR SOVIET/CUBAN MENTORS. END COMMENT. STEARNS

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Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
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